

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 QUITO 01531 081727Z  
ACTION DLOS-06

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 ACDA-07 AGRE-00 AID-05 CEA-01  
CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-08  
EPA-01 ERDA-05 FEA-00 FMC-01 TRSE-00 H-01 INR-07  
INT-05 IO-13 JUSE-00 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 NSF-01  
OES-06 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-04 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06  
SAL-01 /114 W

-----081933Z 074610/46

R 081714Z MAR 77  
FM AMEMBASSY QUITO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3450  
INFO AMEMBASSY LIMA  
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO  
AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL

CONFIDENTIAL QUITO 1531

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PLOS EFIS EC  
SUBJ: ECUADOR'S EASING AWAY FROM 200 MILE TERRITORIAL SEA CLAIM

REF: A) QUITO 1448 B) QUITO 800 C) QUITO 1278

1. A MEMBER OF ONE OF THE COMMISSIONS CHARGED WITH DRAFTING  
A NEW CONSTITUTION INFORMED EMBASSY MARCH 3 THAT A PROPOSAL TO  
ENSHRINE 200 MILE TERRITORIAL SEA CLAIM IN NEW CONSTITUTION  
(REF B&C) HAD BEEN REJECTED FOLLOWING INTERNAL DEBATES. IT  
WOULD THEREFORE NOT APPEAR IN THE CONSTITUTIONAL ALTERNATIVE  
TO BE VOTED ON IN A REFERENDUM LATER THIS YEAR. ACCORDING  
TO THE SOURCE, THE VOTE EXCLUDING THE PROVISION WAS OVERWHELM-  
ING, AND HE SAID THAT THE VAST MAJORITY OF THE COMMISSIONERS  
PERCEIVED THE MEASURE FOR THE DEMAGOGIC AND PERNICIOUS PROPOSAL  
IT WAS.

2. ABOUT THE SAME TIME AS THE TERRITORIAL SEA INITIATIVE AS  
REJECTED BY THE CONSTITUTIONAL COMMISSION, AND EDITORIAL IN  
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EL COMERCIO, QUITO'S LEADING DAILY, SUGGESTED THAT  
THE 200 MILE ECONOMIC ZONE CONCEPT HAD ITS ROOTS IN  
ECUADOR'S TERRITOORIAL SEA CLAIM AND SINCE IT WAS ABOUT TO  
BE ACCEPTED UNIVERSALLY, IT OUGHT TO BE CONSIDERED A  
TRIUMPH OF ECUADOREAN DIPLOMACY (REF A).

3. COMMENT: THE FONOFF LOBBIED SUCCESSFULLY TO EXCLUDE

THE 200 MILE TERRITORIAL SEA CONCEP FROM ANY NEW CONSTITUTION, AND EL COMERCIO HAS OFTEN SERVED AS A STALKING HORSE FOR FONOFF POSITIONS. ON THE BASIS OF THESE EVENTS, IT SEEMS MORE THAN LIKELY THAT FONOFF IS CONTINUING ITS EFFORTS NOW EVIDENT FROM TIME TO TIME OVER THE PAST YEAR TO OSFTEN DOMESTIC PUBLIC OPINION TO ACCEPT EVENTUALLY SOMETHING LESS THAN A PURE 200 MILE TERRITORIAL SEA DOCTRINE.

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** LAW OF THE SEA, TERRITORIAL CLAIMS, TWO HUNDRED MILE LIMIT  
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**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
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**Litigation History:**  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
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**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 77 QUITO 1448, 77 QUITO 800, 77 QUITO 1278  
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**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
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**SAS ID:** 3176817  
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**Subject:** ECUADOR'S EASING AWAY FROM 200 MILE TERRITORIAL SEA CLAIM  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009